



## **Meeting of the North Carolina State Board Task Force**

Education Building  
State Board Lounge  
301 North Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Wednesday, October 5, 2011  
3:30 pm

The Task Force met and the following members were present:

Wayne McDevitt, Chairman  
Melissa Bartlett  
Kevin Howell  
John Tate  
Patricia Willoughby

Also present were:

Katie Cornetto, Staff Attorney, North Carolina State Board of Education  
Elizabeth Cunningham, Policy Analyst and Race to the Top Coordinator, North Carolina State Board of Education  
Ann Marie Gunter, World Languages, K-12 Program Areas, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
Martez Hill, Executive Director, North Carolina State Board of Education  
Richard Thompson

### **Welcome and Organization**

Chairman Wayne McDevitt welcomed members and guests and called the meeting to order. He noted that the agenda will be established and driven by Task Force members. The Task Force was established as a result of discussions of global awareness and competition at the NC State Board's annual planning session. The Task Force has one opportunity to do its best work. While we would like to complete this work in a timely manner, it is most important that the work is of the highest quality. No additional members will be added to the Task Force, though many guests will be invited to inform the Task Force as it completes its work.

Helga Fasciano, Section Chief, K-12 Program Areas and Ann Marie Gunter, World Languages, K-12 Program Areas from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and Martez Hill, Betsy West, and Elizabeth Cunningham from the Office of the NC State Board of Education will provide assistance to the Task Force.

Chairman McDevitt asked members to recommend a name for the Task Force. Members noted that the name should reflect the specific mission and focus of the Task Force. Tricia Willoughby noted that the name should include education. Recommendations included: Task Force on Global Awareness, Task Force on Global Engagement, Global Education Task Force, and Task Force on Global Education.

In preparation for future Task Force discussions, Chairman McDevitt provided a copy of *The Post American World, 2.0* by Fareed Zakaria to each member of the Task Force. Chairman McDevitt remarked that Zakaria provides a well-written description of the “rise of the rest.” Zakaria’s contention is that the West is not slipping, other nations are improving. The central role of the United States, especially in emerging markets, has begun to shrink. Zakaria argues “that Washington needs to begin a serious transformation of its global strategy, moving from its traditional role of dominating to that of a more pragmatic, honest broker. It must seek to share power, create coalitions, build legitimacy, and define the global agenda.”

Chairman McDevitt also recommended Tom Friedman’s new book, *That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back*. Chairman McDevitt noted that education is filtered throughout book.

Task Force members received a report entitled, *Leadership, Innovation, and Foresight: Key Findings and Implications for U.S. Educators and Policymakers*. The report is a compilation of findings from a series of International Conferences on Education sponsored by the Pearson Foundation and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) delivered by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The report is distributed by the Council of Chief State Schools Officers. Chairman McDevitt remarked that State Superintendent June Atkinson would join the Task Force at its next meeting and could offer remarks on the report.

### **Outcome and Scope of Discussions**

Chairman McDevitt suggested that the Task Force work toward a document like the *Framework for Change: The Next Generation of Assessments and Accountability* –a final product that will serve the state and its students for years to come. The document may include the following:

- Background information;
- Research findings;
- Testimony offered during Task Force meetings;
- Immediate (0-2 years) recommendations;
- Mid-term (3-7 years) recommendations;
- Long-term (+8 years) recommendations;
- Implementation plan, including estimated costs and communication strategies; and
- Additional related information.

Chairman McDevitt noted that the scope of the document will be guided by the discussions of the Task Force over the next few months. The document will also be defined by the State Board’s *Future-Ready Students: Goals for the 21st Century*. The State Board has adhered to these standards and asked local school boards to adopt policies in support.

Mr. Tate asked if the state has benchmarked its goals against other states and countries. Chairman McDevitt responded that the Task Force should adopt a process to examine state goals. He noted that the final Task Force report should include a thorough review of the recommended goals.

Chairman McDevitt recommended that the Task Force take time to listen and learn from a series of experts on global education and competitiveness. Members suggested inviting the following individuals and organizations to upcoming meetings of the Task Force:

- North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson

- Ann Marie Gunter, Second Languages, K-12 Program Areas, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- Helga Fasciano, Section Chief, K-12 Program Areas, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- John Dornan, Education Consultant
- Tony Habit, North Carolina New Schools Project
- Public School Forum of North Carolina
- Visiting International Faculty (VIF) International Education
- The Center for International Understanding
- Millie Ravenel, Executive Director, The Center for International Understanding
- World View: An International Program for Educators
- Edward "Ted" Fiske, Former Education Editor of the New York Times
- Helen "Sunny" Ladd, Edgar T. Thompson Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and Professor of Economics, Duke University
- Representatives of Public and Private Schools of Education (Deans Council)
- Leslie Boney, Associate Vice President for Economic Development and Engagement, UNC
- Confucius Institute at North Carolina State University
- Sam Houston, President and CEO of the North Carolina Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education (SMT) Center
- Organization for Economic Development and Coordination
- NC Business Committee for Education Business Leaders Panel
- Asia Society
- Members of the NC General Assembly (Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee)
- Global Schools Network
- North Carolina Secretary of Commerce Keith Crisco
- Representative of the Military (i.e. Anthony Tata Wake Superintendent, Marilee Fitzgerald, Acting Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity, Dr. Emily Marsh, Superintendent, NC DDESS schools on board the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and the Fort Bragg Army Installation)
- Members of the NC General Assembly who attended the trip to Finland trip (Blackwell, Moore, Pate, Robinson, Gill, Atwater, Haire, Robinson)

Mr. Tate requested clarification on the purpose of the Task Force. Is the purpose of the Task Force to define for the State Board the skill sets students need to be globally competitive? As a result, will we ask presenters to address the skills that they believe students need to master to be competitive in a rapidly changing world? There are a limited number of business leaders who can speak with authority on this issue.

Chairman McDevitt agreed with this statement of purpose. He noted that Task Force members will need to narrow and define the scope of work of the Task Force as the process moves forward. Visitors should be asked to speak briefly on their work. Their primary focus should be on offering findings and recommendations that result from their work and experiences.

Mrs. Willoughby noted that it would be helpful to bring business leaders into the process early. The North Carolina Business Committee for Education recently gathered panels of business leaders to discuss the North Carolina School of Science and Math and the Governor's School. Mrs. Willoughby noted that it was interesting to gather individuals with broad perspectives and interests and outside opinions. The panel offered short- and long-term action-oriented solutions.

Mr. Tate offered that it would be important to involve international companies on the panel. A business leader who has been in or has employees in many other countries has a very different perspective to offer.

Mr. Howell reminded the Task Force of the history of IBM. IBM began 100 years ago as a meat and cheese slicer. IBM's corporate leaders do not know what they will be in 100 years – they know their core values. As their business changes, their values remain. In the same sense, we do not know the next generation of students, but we know what we want them to know.

Chairman McDevitt noted that the Task Force will develop recommendations and an action plan. The Department of Public Instruction will recommend an implementation plan within an established time frame. The Task Force and Board will approve the recommended implementation plan. For some, these issues bring reminders of immigration and job loss. The Task Force and Board must encourage discussions of language, global awareness, and international experiences.

Ms. Bartlett remarked that Task Force discussions should be guided by the State Board's document, *Future-Ready Students: Goals for the 21st Century*. The Task Force should revisit this document and focus its recommendations on action steps to move this agenda forward. We are leading the nation with the *Framework for Change*.

Chairman McDevitt responded that the primary focus of presenters should be on offering findings and recommendations that result from their work and experiences. The Task Force is in a "Listen and Learn Period." The presentations will allow Task Force members to determine what is happening in the state and to conduct a gap analysis.

The first meeting of the Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee is Thursday. Someone from the Office of the State Board of Education will attend and provide the agenda. The agenda appears to be more related to commerce.

Mr. Howell agreed that we can learn from the work and perspectives of presenters. Their information will inform our recommendations.

Chairman McDevitt asked the members of the Task Force for their preference in scheduling the remaining meetings of the Task Force. He suggested that the Task Force meet for full day sessions this fall. The members of the Task Force would prefer to meet in a week when the State Board is not meeting. The remaining meetings will be scheduled by email.

In closing, Chairman McDevitt remarked that the Task Force will take the time needed for shared buy-in and to produce a high quality report.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.